

Arizona Department of Economic Security

Promoting the Safety, Well-being and Self-sufficiency of Children, Adults and Families

DES Continuation Hearing

Director Tracy L. Wareing

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Human Services
House of Representatives Committee on Human Services
Committee of Reference

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Promoting the Safety, Well-being and Self-sufficiency of Children, Adults and Families

- DES Sunset Audit Improvements
- Purpose of DES
- Effectiveness of DES
- Need for DES
- Continuation of DES

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DES Sunset Audit Improvements

- Improved processes to increase the accuracy of eligibility determinations and the efficiency for getting needed benefits to families
- Enhanced computer systems and staff training to improve accuracy, timeliness and reliability of information in databases
- Better safeguards for information systems
- Continued use of automation and other technology to enhance efficiency and effectiveness

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Sunset Factors

- Objective and purpose of the agency
- Effectiveness in meeting the agency's objective and purpose
- Efficiency with which the agency has operated
- Extent to which the agency operates in the public interest
- Use and effectiveness of private contractors
- Extent to which the termination of the agency would significantly harm the public health, safety, or welfare
- Major activities/projects, accomplishments, and obstacles to success
- Ability to investigate and resolve complaints within the agency's jurisdiction

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The Purpose of DES

- Provide an integrated approach to human services
- Deliver critical protective and assistance services to Arizona's children, adults and families
- Achieve effectiveness and efficiency through 3 Goals:
 - *Strengthen Individuals and Families*
 - *Increase Self Sufficiency*
 - *Develop the Capacity of Communities*

The Effectiveness of DES

Strengthen Individuals and Families

Examples

- The number of children served safely in their homes has increased by 67% since July 2003
- In FY 2007, a victim of domestic violence looking for emergency shelter was more likely to find a bed than to be turned away for the first time
- More than 2,000 children and their grandparents received support through the creation of the Grandparent Kinship Care program

The Effectiveness of DES

Increase Self-Sufficiency

Examples

- Since 2003, child support collections have increased 31%, reaching a record \$336 million this past year
- In the past year, a total of 1,933 individuals with disabilities were successfully placed in the community in full or part-time positions
- Since 2003, nearly 14,000 fewer families rely on cash assistance, due in part to increased employment

The Effectiveness of DES

Develop the Capacity of Communities

Examples

- DES has more than 14,500 contracts and agreements with non-profit, for-profit and other community partners to provide services to Arizonans across the human service delivery continuum
- It is critical that we continue to inform human services practice through family-led steering committees and coordination with community providers
- Family Connections teams provide a single point of contact for a family to access an array of comprehensive, integrated services

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The Need for DES

- DES provides critical services to Arizona's most vulnerable children, adults and families
- By working with communities to collectively provide protective, early intervention and supportive services, DES helps to prevent situations from escalating and requiring more intensive and expensive services

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*We respectfully request the
continuation of DES with an
extension of 10 years*

Thank you